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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
DEC 23 2002

Applicant : C. Sumian
Serial No. : 09/621,146
Filed : July 21, 2000
For : ENHANCING COMPOUND PENETRATION INTO AND THROUGH
HAIR FOLLICLES
Examiner : R. Dewitty, J. Dees
Art Unit : 1616.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, # ET9093212935US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Box AF, Washington DC 20231 on:

Date : December 18, 2002

By : Bolesh J. Skutnik

Signature : *Bolesh J. Skutnik*

REPLY

Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2002, having a shortened three-month statutory period for response which expired December 24, 2002, we request that you please accept the following remarks as to the above-identified patent application.

Claim 1 restated to facilitate understanding the remarks which follow.

1. A method for enhancing compound/drug penetration into hair follicles on body areas of animals and humans, comprising the steps of:
 - a. simultaneously applying topically said compound/drug and a swellable composition to said body areas with an intact stratum corneum;
 - b. allowing said composition to penetrate into said hair follicles; and
 - c. volume swelling said swellable composition, wherein internal forces are generated by said swellable composition at said hair follicles during and after said volume swelling of said composition to prevent collapse of said follicle during release of said compound/drug.